

Oppose H.R. 1431: the *EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act of 2017*

Threatens public health by stacking advisory board with industry representatives and weakening scientific review.

Republicans will claim that H.R. 1431 restores balance and independence to EPA's Science Advisory Board and that it increases the transparency of and public participation in EPA's scientific review process. Under this guise of increased transparency and public participation, H.R. 1431 sets out requirements that will weaken the credibility and effectiveness of the Board's scientific review process.

What Does H.R. 1431 Really Do?

H.R. 1431 paves the way for industry to have a greater influence over EPA by distorting the process for selecting members of the Science Advisory Board (SAB) toward industry-affiliated "experts." The bill also favors industry by creating unnecessary procedural hurdles that will delay the Board's scientific advice and ultimately EPA action to protect the health and safety of every American.

- **Deters Participation of Academic Scientists:**
 - Requires new and burdensome disclosure requirements for SAB members which nonetheless fail to identify and eliminate persons with financial conflicts of interest from serving. This creates additional burdens for legitimate academic scientists from serving on the SAB, leading to panels with disproportionately high industry representation.
 - Making it more difficult for academic scientists who have relevant subject matter expertise from providing their advice to the EPA will weaken the ability of the SAB to review the science behind EPA's activities and effectively guarantees that decisions will be made by non-experts.
 - Prohibits current SAB members from receiving EPA funded grants or contracts, and prevents them from applying for such grants or contracts for 3 years following their service on the SAB.
- **Harms Public Health, Delays EPA Action:**
 - Requires SAB to publish responses to all public comments, including listing the total number of repetitious comments, and to provide written responses to dissenting views.
 - Creates an endless loop of public comment and response that will prevent the SAB from providing EPA with scientific advice in a useful period of time.

The end result of these needless requirements will be to provide industry with the time it needs to halt, derail, discredit, and slow EPA actions that go against their interests.

Who Opposes H.R. 1431?

- Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
- American Association for the Advancement of Science
- American Geophysical Union
- American Lung Association
- American Public Health Association
- American Thoracic Society
- Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
- Clean Water Action
- Earthjustice
- Environmental Defense Action Fund
- Health Care Without Harm
- League of Conservation Voters (LCV)
- National Medical Association
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Physicians for Social Responsibility
- Union of Concerned Scientists